



Big names aiming for the German Classic trophy

Back at the traditional date, Eschborn-Frankfurt is attracting big names. On May 1st, the entire podium of last year's 60th edition will meet again. Jasper Philipsen already sprinted to three wins this season and will go for the title again with full confidence. Likewise, local hero John Degenkolb and serial winner Alexander Kristoff want to get the trophy back.

The new team of four-time winner Alexander Kristoff (Intermarché – Wanty – Gobert Matériaux) has several options on the Taunus course. After a strong showing at Paris-Roubaix, Kristoff will confidently target a fifth win at one of his favorite races. German youngster Georg Zimmermann, who was caught just short of the finish last year, and Biniam Girmay are also part of the squad. The 21-year-old is set to return to racing in Eschborn after he wrote cycling history a few weeks ago.

John Degenkolb will be joined by several German colleagues in his new team DSM. With Nico Denz, he can rely on experienced classic quality, Niklas Märkl supports the local hero as a young, fast rider. The only German WorldTour team, BORA-hansgrohe, is counting on the sprinter squad around Danny van Poppel and Sam Bennett as well as Nils Politt. The Tour of Germany winner is the team's option for an aggressive race in the Taunus.

Pascal Ackermann, on the other hand, will focus on the sprint in Frankfurt. In 2019, he could enjoy the cheers of the fans in front of the Alte Oper in the champion's jersey. After switching to UAE Team Emirates, Ackermann wants to build on that success. Teammate Fernando Gaviria will make his comeback on May 1 after breaking his collarbone during the opening weekend of the classics season. With Rick Zabel and former European champion Giacomo Nizzolo (Israel - Premier Tech) or Hugo Hofstetter (Team Arkéa - Samsic), other sprinters will enter the fight for important WorldTour points.

Springboard for the offspring

In addition to the established names, the German Classic also writes stories for the next generation. Jonas Rutsch (EF Education – EasyPost) is making his debut in the elite edition of his home race. Rutsch finished on the podium on each of the U17, U19 and U23 races – now the long-awaited start with the pros follows. He celebrates this premiere together with teammate Georg Steinhauser, who finished third in the junior edition of Eschborn-Frankfurt in 2018. At that time, Niklas Larsen (Uno-X Pro Cycling) won the U23 race. He'll join the youngsters starting in the WorldTour edition on May 1st.

Bike classic atmosphere without restrictions

The traditional date also sees the return of fans to the 2022 race. Everywhere along the route, fans are allowed without restrictions. At the start in Eschborn, at the iconic climbs of the Taunus and in the finish area in Frankfurt's city center, visitors may again enjoy a typical German Classic after a two-year break. Besides the fans, more than 6,000 participants are expected for the ŠKODA Velotour, one of Germany's largest amateur events. The anticipation of riding on the same closed streets as the WorldTour pros is



great. Riders can select from three courses, ranging from a flat 40km version to a 100km distance with all the hills included. Last-minute entries can be booked until April 28th at www.skoda-velotour.de.